

## CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

**Title of publication:** 22

**Other known title(s):** Manuscript 22  
Jokes

**OFLC ref:** 1001904.000

**Medium:** Computer Text File Printout

**Publisher:** Not stated

**Country of origin:** New Zealand

**Language:** English

**Applicant:** Clancy Fisher Oxner & Bryant, Barristers & Solicitors

<b>Classification:</b>	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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**Descriptive note:** None

**Display conditions:** None

**Date of entry in Register:** 11 March 2011

**Date of direction to issue a label:** No direction to issue a label has been issued

### Summary of reasons for decision:

The text file printout is made up of a range of items that are intended to be humorous, including an extensive selection of crude jokes involving the sexual abuse of children, and violence directed at women. Numerous other jokes on the first two pages degrade and ridicule groups such as homosexuals and Jews. This material is an example of transgressive humour that gains its impact from deliberately describing actions and expressing attitudes that run counter to social norms.

In spite of its deliberately offensive nature, the impact of the printout is limited. The material has presumably been assembled for the personal use of the owner and will not be commercially available. Few of the "jokes" are funny and the most likely reaction of adult readers is repugnance. However, the material is likely to be disturbing and upsetting to children and young people. Harm is also likely to young readers because of the explicitly sexual character of the jokes, especially if they misjudge the appropriateness of using similar jokes and language in everyday social settings, which might well have a negative impact on their social relationships. Adults will be more familiar with the type of humour and are likely to be upset or offended, but not harmed to any greater degree.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act on the application of all the classification criteria. The classification limits the freedom of expression. However, given the content of the publication a restriction of its availability to adults only is reasonable, justified and the minimum required to avoid injury to the public good.